



**TOWN OF UXBRIDGE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
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**Jill R. Myers**  
Town Manager

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Honorable Board of Selectmen

FROM: Jill R. Myers, Town Manager

DATE: October 20, 2006

SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report for the BOS Meeting of October 23, 2006

Taft Park: Staff responded to a concern voiced at the last BOS meeting. The DPW was successful in removing 80-90% of the graffiti with black paint covering the remainder. There is vandalism to the picnic table which will be removed and pallets found in the water which will be retrieved. There are permanent burns in the plastic equipment which are disfiguring, however, not harmful to the patrons at this time.

The Police Chief reported that there was damage to the park over a recent weekend. The parents of the offenders brought the kids back to pick up the mess. The Chief will review the pictures but agreed that there has been some damage in years past. The Chief also offered to look into some of the cases and see if there were arrests and court ordered restitution on any. He will provide follow-up reports as more information becomes available.

Chm. Woods forwarded the concerns brought forth at Citizens' Forum to members of the Taft Trustees to make sure they were informed. She received a call and message from Ken Redding to state that the Trustees are not pleased with the situation. Currently, the Town is given \$40,000 a year, through the DPW, to care for the property.

Signage at Intersection at Quaker Highway and Chocolog Road: At the request of Sel. Kuros, I forwarded the Public Safety Committee a request to review the signage at the intersection of Quaker Hwy and Chocolog Rd. Larry Bombara reported that the intersection is State Highway and there used to be flashing lights there years ago. Chief Freitas concurred with Larry and stated that this has been a problem intersection for a long time. The Police Department often does traffic enforcement there but there have been 8 collisions at this intersection in the last 3 ¼ years. This topic will be further discussed at the Public Safety Committee meeting on 11/2/06.

Saver's Bank Entrance: Staff reviewed concerns raised about the Saver's Bank entrance. Larry Bombara reported that the entrance is not a roadway yet: it is an entrance to a "business" area as is Hannaford's etc. The only difference is that this is at an intersection and has lights. Larry

reported that the BOS have a few years left to decide if the Town wants to realign the intersection from Mendon St. to Douglas St. by agreement with the Bank. The bank has rehired their traffic engineers to come up with a plan to improve the safety of the entrance which the DPW and their engineers will review prior to implementation. That should be done soon. Chief Freitas reported that his latest information is that Saver's Bank traffic engineers will be going to the Planning Board soon. Their recommendation is to rephase the lights. The Planning Board information was to Chief Freitas by Floyd Forman.

Blanchard Project: I am pleased to report that on October 13<sup>th</sup>, my office received a check for \$35,000 from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund Emergency Grant for the feasibility study for the Blanchard Building.

The exposed boards on the exterior of the building will be primed on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Cynthia Walenty of the Blanchard Reuse Committee is working with the designated painting company. Work on repointing the chimney was completed on 10/13/06. This work will stop the leaking that is currently coming through the ceiling on the third floor of the building. Deputy Moore stated that the community service workers will return in the Spring upon request, and the sign will remain on site.

Stanley Woolen Mill: The Building Inspector was onsite on 10/17/06. He sent follow-up correspondence to Nick Deane and stated the following: "In follow-up to my memo to you on October 16, 2006, I visited the site to confirm that the work itemized in the email from Craig Barnes was set to begin. At approximately 10:00 a.m. this morning (October 17, 2006), workers from Patriot Metal were performing inside work that exceeded and expanded the scope approved for items noted in the memo of October 16, 2006. As you are aware, the building was posted on October 6, 2006 as "Entry Not Allowed for Unsafe Conditions" and you had installed a gate and fencing. In my opinion the work activity I observed exceeded the constraints of the posting and previous memo." The property owner has been on regular contact with the Fire Chief as well. The Building Inspector will continue to monitor and report his findings as to the work being conducted at the Mill.

Election-Related Issues: According to Board of Registrars Chair Cecilia Boatman, we have two local residents who have expressed interest in being appointed as election workers. However, the Town Clerk would be unable to schedule them to work at the polls until they go through formal training on election policies and procedures. According to MGL Ch. 54 Sec. 12, the Board of Selectmen are able to appoint election officers at a set period of time during the course of the year (July 15 – August 15). Because these potential election workers have expressed interest after the BOS deadline of August 15<sup>th</sup>, their appointments would need to be made by the Board of Registrars. The BOR next meets on 10/25/06.

I have contacted the State Elections Division and requested election worker training for both newly appointed workers as well as refreshers for other interested election workers. This training would be open to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Registrars as well as representatives from my office and the office of the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk is reaching out to surrounding communities to see if they have interested parties from their respective towns who would benefit from state training as the state is reluctant to send their representative out

unless a large number of people will be participating. Training may occur on 11/6/06. I will provide you with updated information on this topic as it becomes available.

Sutton Street: Staff visited the Sutton Street property to get an approximate measurement of the amount of land that Mr. Steven Puccetti is using to grow corn as well as to conduct a brief inspection of the property and compliance to the contract. DPW Assistant Superintendent Irving Priest estimated that Mr. Puccetti is utilizing approximately 60 acres of the 100-acre lot. Approximately 12.5 acres is being utilized by the Recreation Commission. No problems or obvious violations to the lease agreement were noted. The existing lease is in the process of being reviewed and amended and will be presented for signature at the next BOS meeting in line with the vote that the BOS took when the lease was renewed for a one-year period.

Annual Town Report: At the end of September, staff sent out requests to Committee Chairs and Department Heads asking them to submit their Annual Town Report for Fiscal Year 2006. The deadline that was given for submission of the report was November 1<sup>st</sup>. To date, only 5 reports out of 46 have been received. In order for us to be able to utilize the same vendors that designed and printed the report last year (which we were very happy with), we need to adhere to a much stricter deadline than in previous years. In the coming weeks, staff may ask for assistance from the BOS in following-up with delinquent committees to ensure that we stay on track with the timeframe which was established. Staff is also open to input on the format of the report as well as ideas and suggestions for a cover.

2007 License Renewals: The process of renewing all BOS approved licenses for calendar year 2007 has begun. The Police Department, Fire Department, Board of Health, Town Clerk and Tax Collector have all been provided with a list of licenses to be renewed. These departments are in the process of conducting individual inspections which will aid the BOS in your discussion. Some issues which will be brought to the Board for consideration could include overdue personal and property taxes, non-compliance with BOH licensing regulations, outdated business certification, overdue fees or police or fire violations. Staff will attempt to resolve any issues which could lead to the termination of a license prior to these issues being brought to the Board. The Board will vote on the license renewals at your meeting scheduled on 12/11/06.

IAC Meeting of 10/18/06: The Finance Director and I along with the Town's Benefit Consultants Kevin Walsh and Diane Laflash met with the IAC to present a status of the rfp for health plans, and provided a presentation regarding the proposed warrant article relating to MGL Chapter 32b, Section 19. We are working to schedule a meeting with Town retirees in the next week or two to describe the benefits and impact of the Section 19 acceptance.

Collective Bargaining Sessions: The next meeting with the DPW union is scheduled for 10/24/06; the meeting with the Police Union is also scheduled for that same day.

School Committee Meeting: The Finance Director and I attended the School Committee meeting on 10/17/06 to review our memo relating to school choice revenues and the FY07 budget. The consensus was that the School Committee supports returning the amount of State reimbursement for special education, due to the fact that they craft their budget without considering any amounts that they may or may not receive for reimbursement from the State.